

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsiit.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to determine if submitted material meets TechNews' policy and standards. For more information about our editorial standards, please email assteditor@technewsiit.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor may be submitted by anyone, but are subject to review by the Editor-in-Chief. All letters-to-the-editor become the property of TechNews upon submission. TechNews does not accept or publish anonymous letters or stories.

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Nye @ Washington Awards Ceremony:

Bill Nye: Just a regular 'Science Guy'

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

I love Bill Nye "The Science Guy." Who doesn't? He's got a handful of Emmys, shows, and patents. His love and passion for science and discovery are clear and inspiring. He's incredibly charismatic and I wish I could just listen to the stories he tells. Meeting him in person was something different. Hero worship happens because we all want to see (and only see) the greatness in people, and when they continue to astound us we can't help but think they will never cease to astound us. In person Nye is a bit of a different person.

As soon as Nye walked into the room I recognized him and felt excitement. Here's a guy

who is the embodiment of the belief in progress, that working together we can change the world without a doubt.

Quickly the bubble of photographers and fans grew and he was almost unreachable.

In pictures, he's smiling and as happy as ever but as soon as the cameras were down, he just looked forlorn and disappointed. He was like a poodle in a tutu being paraded around. He would make these off-putting expressions when someone fumbled with their camera or was in his way. You could hear him mumbling, "hold the camera higher, your fingers are in the way of the range-finder, come on now, this isn't that hard," when people were taking pictures with him.

He just looked tired. Maybe he was

disappointed in his recent resurgences in the spotlight. Nothing has changed about him from when "The Science Guy" first started, but because of two highly publicized debates, now everyone wants his picture again.

Maybe he is just a geek who isn't comfortable with pageantry (you could certainly see that too.) Coming away from the night so many people were talking about what an amazing human being he is, how deserving he is of our attention, but no one was introspective.

I think he wants people not to love him but to love science and have a passion for curiosity and learning. There's more to Bill Nye than his public face and sometimes it wears a little thin. We all need to take up the causes he champions rather than the champion himself.

Hipsters: Composites of contradictions, culture

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

Hipsters were, and perhaps still are, a vehemently despised group to pop in and out of the spotlight. I think this is because they've stolen cultural capital and just made a mess of what everyone holds near and dear.

Cultural capital is the idea that you can use elements of a community's specific culture to gain status.

As computer nerds, you have programmed your own games and servers, as a trekkie, you've memorized the dialogue of the entire original series, as an anime aficionado, you've written your own fan fiction, and each of these things you are proud of and shows your dedication to the cause.

Hipsters on the other hand pick and choose things that they like. Lumberjack beard and an ironic dolphin tattoo? Go for it. Grunge

jeans, dark ambient music, and a food truck Koolickles (Kool-Aid pickles.) Don't knock it till you've tried it.

Hipsters are a big mess of contradictions and they are hated because they are seen as stealing culture without earning it. They choose things because they like them, worse yet if they like them ironically, and refuse to accept the rest of the culture that comes with it.

But I think hipsters got everything right.

Hipsters are the evolution of culture in a global society. They take the things they like and combine them to make a wholly unique experience. They are a change in the idea that culture is from some heritage and must be preserved in its purest form.

People get stuck in their community echo chambers where what's cool just gets echoed back and forth reverberating without

meaning. Purposefully choosing to do things that aren't "mainstream" for the sake of being different is kind of lame, but choosing to go against the grain of what's in popular culture increases visibility of lesser known brands and artists.

It causes me to think about why I choose to listen to what I do instead of looking harder for something lesser known, but closer to perfection.

A sort of Stockholm Syndrome of popular culture can entrap people; after being surrounded by a trend at every turn, you can't help but become complacent with it or join the movement that hates it. Just go and pick out the things you like.

"We have to stop consuming our culture, we have to create culture. Don't watch TV, don't read magazines, don't even listen to NPR, create your own road show... You're giving it all away!" -Terence McKenna.

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UTSAV GANDHI

CAMPUS

IEEE@IIT welcomes Microsoft rep at next meeting, celebrates successful trip to Roberson & Associates

Vijai Baskar

TECHNEWS WRITER

The Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEEE) at IIT organized a tour to Roberson & Associates on February 19.

The host Dennis Roberson, gave a detailed tour into his organization which deals with providing services in the areas of Radio Frequency (RF) spectrum management, RF measurement and analysis, and technology management.

The research is headed by Roger Peterson, M.S., Ph.D in Multi user-error correction coding, also life fellow of IEEE. Peterson has also worked for Motorola and Bell labs prior to working at Roberson & Associates. He is the co-author of the book "Introduction to Spread Spectrum Communication," which is used as the primary reference tool for research in spread spectrum. The tour also included a walk-through of the labs and devices used in their research.

Currently, they are working on providing solutions to spectrum availability, spectrum use efficiency and various other spectrum needs for companies such as T-Mobile, Globalstar and the Department of Defense. As part of this project, data about spectrum usage in the Chicago area is being gathered for further analysis. For more details about the company, visit

www.robersonandassociates.com.

The next event for the month will be the IEEE general body meeting to be held on February 26 during the lunch session in the Siegel Hall Auditorium. It is an opportunity for students to know more about IEEE's activities and upcoming events.

Martin Schray from Microsoft will be the guest speaker for the meeting. He will be speaking about the various new technologies Microsoft is working on, career opportunities within the company and take questions from students.

As always, lunch will be provided.

Dave Collins, Academic Field Sales Engineer from National Instruments will be conducting a workshop in late March that includes a demonstration of current products, talks about possible career opportunities and how to use their products. Stay tuned with IEEE for further updates on this event.

The month of February saw many interested students sign-up for committees under various executive board positions.

Students are still encouraged to join committees and projects if they are willing to contribute towards IEEE and be a part of its activities and events. More information on how to come aboard is available on the website www.ieee.iit.edu.



Photos by Vijai Baskar